April 8, 1980

NNFN

Records of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, 95th Congress

Chief, NNFN

The National Archives received the records of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, 95th Congress, in three shipments on March 28, April 2, and August 6, 1979.

An examination of the records after they had been received into the building has disclosed that:

1. The records in many respects are misarranged. For example, the committee received 685 public exhibits on JFK, and they are filed as follows: Exhibits F556-F683 are in box 25; exhibits F1-F353 are in box 67; exhibits F275, F355-F459 are in boxes 68 and 69; exhibits F460-F555 are in box 70.

2. Though we have not viewed all exhibits, yet what we have seen of them are in the form of 8"X10" photographic prints or of electrostatic reproductions. Thus, we have not found any original exhibits, nor photographic negatives of them. Moreover, the exhibits are not individually filed in folders or envelopes and suitably labelled.

3. A staff member from the Clerk's office told me that the committee disposed of the original exhibits or left them in the hands of those who worked for it.

4. Some exhibits have not been found in the committee's files, and are probably missing.

5. The box lists prepared by the committee to serve as finding aids to the records are deficiently descriptive or erroneous. For instance, the labels on boxes nos. 918-930 describe their contents as MLK index cards; whereas in reality, they house JFK index cards.

6. Almost 30 Hollinger boxes contain 4"x6" index cards to correspondence, investigative files, and other records of the committee. The cards were originally kept in two suitable file cabinets by the committee, permitting ready access to them; to achieve the same convenience, we must reconstitute the cards in similar file containers.

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